

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4534-01
Bill No.: HJR 58
Subject: Constitutional Amendments: Courts
Type: Original
Date: April 18, 2002

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Revenue	(\$8,253,815)	(\$16,365,298)	(\$16,774,394)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds	(\$8,253,815)	(\$16,365,298)	(\$16,774,394)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials of the **House of Representatives**, the **Senate** and the **Office of the Governor** stated that the proposal would not directly affect their agencies.

State Courts Administrator officials stated that there are 186 associate circuit court judges and 32 court commissioners who are paid at the rate of associate circuit court judges. Circuit court judges are paid \$12,000 per year more than associate circuit court judges. Each circuit court judge is authorized a court reporter (section 485.040). Court reporters salary is \$48,660 per year.

Additionally, the circuit court budget has a provision for paying temporary court reporters to replace those who are unable to perform their duties temporarily. The appropriation is \$100,000 per year. With additional reporters, that appropriation would need to be about \$250,000 annually.

The Central Transcribing Service in the Office of the State Courts Administrator transcribes sound recordings for associate circuit court judges. This service would be eliminated over a six-month period of time. There are 9.25 FTE assigned to the Service.

Officials estimated expenses of about \$3,000 every two years for the Missouri Judicial Assignment Commission.

Advertisement costs for the proposal would be \$3,471 per newspaper column inch for three printings of the text of the proposal, the introduction, title, fiscal note summary, and affidavit. The proposal would be on the ballot for the November 2002 general election.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Savings - Courts</u>			
Personal Service (227.25)	\$10,725,600	\$22,213,550	\$22,768,889
Fringe Benefits	\$3,862,288	\$7,999,099	\$8,199,076
Expense and Equipment	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Savings to Courts	\$14,587,888	\$30,212,649	\$30,967,965
<u>Cost - Courts</u>			
Personal Service (404 FTE)	(\$16,704,815)	(\$34,244,870)	(\$35,100,992)
Fringe Benefits	(\$6,015,403)	(\$12,331,577)	(\$12,639,867)
Expense and Equipment	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$1,500)</u>	<u>(\$1,500)</u>
Total Cost to Courts	(\$22,720,218)	(\$46,577,947)	(\$47,742,359)
<u>Cost - Secretary of State</u>			

Newspaper Advertisements	(\$121,485)	\$0	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(\$8,253,815)</u>	<u>(\$16,365,298)</u>	<u>(\$16,774,394)</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small business would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

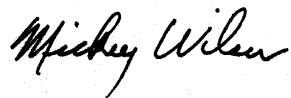
This proposal would abolish the office of associate circuit judge and promote those judges to circuit judges effective January 1, 2003.

The proposal would also establish the Missouri Judicial Assignment Commission which would review and study assignment of judges and allocation of staff and resources across the state and would, every other year beginning 1 December 2004, make formal recommendations to the General Assembly for the reduction, transfer, reallocation, or other changes in the number and assignment of circuit and associate judges. Those recommendations would take effect unless disapproved by concurrent resolution before February first of the year following the filing of formal recommendations.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space. This legislation would not affect Total State Revenue.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Governor
House of Representatives
Senate
Secretary of State
State Courts Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mickey Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'W'.

Mickey Wilson, CPA
Acting Director
April 18, 2002